

Japan



Welcome



Where is Japan?

Japan is an island nation in East Asia in the Pacific Ocean. It is east of China, North Korea, South Korea and Russia.



Time difference

South Africa is seven hours behind Japan.



Population

Japan has a population of about 127-million people.



Language

Japanese



Economy

Japan is the third-largest economy in the world in terms of GDP, deriving its wealth primarily from service-based industries. Secondary sectors are agriculture, fishing and forestry.

Despite the small size, Japan's GDP is 17 times the size of South Africa's.



Trade statistics on Japanese travellers in South Africa

Japanese travellers contributed over R1-billion to the South African economy from 2003 to 2008. The average contribution by a business traveller was higher than by other visitors, and business tourists spent the highest per day.

The number of Japanese arrivals to South Africa declined in 2008 due to the economic slowdown, after reaching a decade high of 32 000 in 2006.

Although the majority of Japanese travellers to South Africa are holidaymakers or business travellers, business tourists emerged as the fastest-growing category from 2003 to 2008.

The arrivals to South Africa from Japan are higher compared with other Asian countries of comparable size. However, spend per trip is lower than that of visitors from these countries.



Manners

Before eating it is good manners to say, 'Itadakimasu', and after eating, 'Gochisosama deshita'.

If a Japanese person tilts their head away from you when you've asked them to do something, it is a sign of strong reluctance or polite refusal.

Avoid showing up in casual clothes for a meeting. Japanese people wear formal suits to meetings.

Punctuality is extremely important.



How to make a Japanese person's day

Take your visitor for a scenic drive or to a game park.